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DE RUEHTC #0053 0281450
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3706
INFO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0189
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1840
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 6783
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1974
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1910
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 5047
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0008
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1552
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1427
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 4754
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1847
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4645

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000053

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/27/2020
TAGS: PGOV PREL NL IZ
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/IRAQ: SUPPORT USG ON CANDIDATE
DISQUALIFICATION ISSUE

REF: SECSTATE 5980

Classified By: DCM Edwin Nolan for reasons 1.4(b,d)

(C) The Dutch agree with reftel points on the disqualification of candidates for the upcoming Iraq elections but do not advise public statements on the matter. Post delivered reftel points to the Dutch MFA on January 22 and discussed the issues on January 26 with Anne Luwema, head of the MFA Gulf States Division, and Dirk Jan Wierenga, Senior Policy Officer. The Dutch share USG concerns. Luwema reported that the Dutch ambassador in Baghdad had raised the matter in private with both the GOI and UNAMI, and the EU had expressed concerns about the matter in a meeting with FM Zebari on January 21. However, the Dutch do not intend to raise the matter in public, and the EU sentiment appears to support quiet efforts on this issue given the Iraqi sensitivities. Luwema added that UNAMI and the UK have similar concerns but have not asked the EU to raise this issue publicly. UNAMI representatives will likely discuss this issue in a meeting with the EU ambassadors over the January 30-31 weekend. The Dutch would welcome hearing if the USG recommends raising this issue publicly.

LEVIN